



Rescue Partner Transfer Program Policy

General Information

Mission Statement: To serve the community and promote responsible animal welfare through collaborative relationships, live-saving programs, advocacy and education to enhance the quality of life for all animals.

Goals and Objectives

- To educate the public in humane issues and public safety regarding animals.
- To enforce DuPage County ordinances and State statutes pertaining to animals.
- To assist the public in resolving animal issues.
- To protect the safety and welfare of the citizens and animals of this community.
- To prevent the spread of animal illnesses and other zoonotic diseases

Approval Process

Organizations that are licensed shelters or rescues may be eligible to participate in our Rescue Partner Transfer Program. To become a partner the organization must submit a completed questionnaire along with appropriate licenses: current Department of Agriculture license and 501c3, if applicable. All out of state groups must be a 501c3 and provide proof of good standing within state regulations.

Once the questionnaire is received, DCAS will review it and your organization will be contacted to go over any additional questions or clarifications. During this time we may also contact the references your organization listed on the application. Once a determination has been made, DCAS will reach out to the person listed as the primary contact on the questionnaire.

DCAS maintains the right to deny any organizations based on findings and/or limit the number of Rescue Partners at any time.

Being an Active Rescue Partner

To be consider 'Active', partners must transfer animals from DCAS yearly. Rescue Partners are expected to maintain good quality of care and adequate records, including tracking outcomes for animals transferred. DCAS may request an outcome report of transferred animals at any time while you are a transfer partner.

Transfer Best Practices

Adhering to best practices is integral in ensuring the health and safety of the animals being transported and the community they enter. Once your organization becomes a Rescue Partner, we ask that you make a commitment that your organization meets or exceeds the following practices, as applicable:

- DCAS encourages our partners to come to the facility and do their own evaluations, taking into consideration any medical and behavior information prior to transferring an animal.
- All participants must be committed to abiding by all local, state and federal laws and regulations.
- Public health and safety are a primary concern. All animals transported across state lines will have a rabies vaccination and a health certificate signed by a veterinarian.
- Humane standards of care must be provided to every animal being transferred.
- The purpose of this program is to find licensed shelters/organizations that have the intention of directly adopting the animals transferred from DCAS. Should you decide to transfer to another organization DCAS must be notified.

DCAS reserves the right to deny the transfer of any animal at our sole discretion which includes but not limited to an animal with a medical condition which poses a significant risk to public health, a behavioral issue which poses a significant risk to public safety, any condition that compromises the animal's quality of life.

How to Transfer an Animal

We recommend coming to our facility to evaluate and pull animals for your organization.

Open Business Hours

Monday and Thursday: 8am-7pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8am-4:30pm

Saturday: 10:30am-2:30pm

Transfer Holds

DCAS encourages rescues to come into the building to evaluate and pull animals directly from the shelter. In the case that this cannot happen, an authorized representative agent from the organization must email or call the appropriate Rescue Coordinator to request a hold on an animal. Please note: Organizations in the building take precedence over emails sent to a coordinator. In order to assist you properly, you will be required to make an appointment to pick up any animal on hold.

For cats and small animals: Dina.Schubert@dupageco.org 630-407-2805

For dogs: Carrie.Rezo@dupageco.org 630-407-2809

Transferring Out

Once you are ready to pull you will be asked to complete the Animal Rescue Contract and Illinois State Disclosure. You will receive a copy of both documents in addition to their medical record, behavior evaluation and owner profile when applicable. Please be advised that you will need to bring collars, leashes or carries to accommodate the transport.

Please note: Ownership of and full legal responsibility for the animal will transfer to the Rescue Partner at the time of completion of the Animal Rescue Contract (this includes full liability for any future costs associated with care). DCAS does not guarantee the condition of the animal or exact age/information/behavior and does not warranty any medical or behavior complications that may arise.

Additional Information

Animals on the adoption floor

DCAS has an adoption program for dogs, cats and small animals. Animals in our adoption program have been fully vetted: spayed/neutered, vaccinated, heartworm tested, FIV/FelV tested and microchipped. Animals available for adoption can have Rescue holds placed on them after 3 business days of being available in the program. Adoptable animals are first come, first served and any Rescue holds will be placed in the order they are received. Any hold placed on an adoptable animal must be picked up by the next business day.

Rescue Only Animals

Animals that are deemed as Rescue only will be made viewable on our closed Facebook page, DuPage County Animal Services Rescue Resource. Upon approval, the representatives listed on the questionnaire will be invited to join the page. If the organization would also like to have their approved fosters added to the page, please send an email to Carrie.Rezo@dupageco.org with their names included.

Medical Services

DCAS does provide the following veterinary services for the animals owned by DCAS:

- Rabies
- Distemper/FVRCP
- FIV/FelV
- Bordetella
- Deworming when applicable
- Flea and tick preventive
- Heartworm testing, preventative and treatment (for dogs)
- Spay/Neuter
- Dental cleaning/extractions when applicable and at the discretion of the veterinary administrator

Dog to Dog Introductions

Rescue Partner groups who wish to conduct dog introductions with potential foster families and their pets must complete the following prior to introductions:

- A DCAS staff member must be notified prior to the introduction taking place
- An authorized representative must be present at the introduction
- The visiting dog must have a current Rabies vaccine
- Owners of the dog will have to sign the Dog Meet and Greet Waiver before the introduction

Social Media and Marketing

Transfer partnerships are based on a mutual relationship of trust and respect. To build a lasting relationship we request that our transfer partners adhere to our commitment of avoiding divisive or misleading language when promoting animals received or wanting to obtain from DCAS. We understand at times animals are listed as urgent; we ask our Rescue Partners to use language that supports our working relationship rather than vilifies DCAS. Transfer partners may not misrepresent animals received from DCAS as being “rescued” from the shelter, on “death row” or having been saved before being “killed”. In order to promote transfer relationships and improve public perception of partnership between shelters and transfer agencies, we want to ensure that the community sees us as allies, rather than enemies. If the Rescue Partner is unwilling to comply with this request, DCAS may decline to transfer animals out.

Euthanasia

Over 2000 animals are brought into DCAS every year. As an open admission facility, DCAS does not turn away any animal regardless of breed or condition. Keeping in mind public safety and resources, at times DCAS must make difficult decisions to humanely euthanize animals.

DCAS may euthanize animals for the following reasons:

- Behavior (animals that may be considered a danger to the public)
- Medical (quality of life is always a consideration when considering euthanasia)
- Space (due to limited cage space, DCAS must make difficult decisions if room for incoming animals is unavailable.)

Suspension/Termination

DCAS takes complaints seriously and where appropriate will forward information to state, federal, and/or other local authorities. DCAS may suspend an organization while a situation is being investigated.

When an incident occurs related to the Rescue Partner Transfer Program, DCAS will review the matter fully. These incidents may include but not limited to suspicion or evidence of animal cruelty, neglect, surrendering an animal back to DCAS, failure to provide information requested by DCAS, or interference of functions within the facility. If there are any sanctions, citations, or an open investigation by the Department of Agriculture or local county agency which DCAS is made aware of this might trigger a

suspension. Failure to report an ongoing investigation or citation to DCAS will result in a suspension/termination.

Rescue partners are always required to abide by the Code of Conduct and ensure all foster homes, transporters and representatives of the organization act in accordance with this code.

If you are an approved Rescue Partner and are found transferring animals for a group that has not been approved or suspended/terminated by DCAS then you too may be suspended/terminated from pulling from DCAS.

This policy is effective June 25th, 2020.

Please be advised that DCAS Rescue Partner Transfer Program Policies are subject to change at any time at the discretion of DCAS.